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09/001,643

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/001,643 12/31/97 ALBERT

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022193 LM02/1126  
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EXAMINER

HUYNH, C.

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2776

7

DATE MAILED:

11/26/99

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner of Patents and Trad marks**

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
09/001,643

Applicant(s)  
Albert et al.

Examiner  
Cong-Lac Huynh

Group Art Unit  
2776



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Dec 31, 1997

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

## Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been  
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

Art Unit: 2776

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Drawings*

1. This application has been filed with informal drawings which are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Art Unit: 2776

3. Claims 1-4, 6-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anand et al. (US Pat No. 5,710,900, 1/20/98) in view of Peters et al. (US Pat No. 5,884,284, 3/16/99).

Regarding independent claim 1, Anand discloses:

-- A system for generating reports from a computer database (col 1, lines 5-7, 54-67).

--The system includes a graphical user interface which allows the user to select and specify the parameter for the report, display the report, print the report, and save the report (col 2, lines 1-4).

--The server computer is coupled to the database computer includes the database containing a collection of information about an enterprise of the user. A client computer is coupled to the database computer and the server computer and executes an application program. The application program allows an user to create a report as desired (col 2, lines 14-25, 31-34, 39-41).

--Smart Report viewing subsystem includes a WYSIWYG browser which displays a selected Smart Report on the screen. If the user decides to drill down from the current, Smart Report viewing subsystem notifies the folder management subsystem to send a new report request. The user can select a Smart Report by choosing the "menu item-View" (col 9, lines 16-32).

Art Unit: 2776

--The Smart Report Viewing subsystem allows the user to display and format text, tables and graphs in the report. The Smart Report Viewing subsystem also allows the user to add a header, a footer, and annotations to the report and save the report (col 9, lines 39-47).

-- The user has to log-on the system by entering the user's name and password to access the database system. The information entered is used as user-defined information in handling functions such as retrieving and storing folders or reports related to each user (col 6, lines 43-67; col 7, lines 1-13).

Anand, however, fails to disclose the database containing the user billing and inventory information. Peters discloses:

--An integrated system to create, maintain, and analyze individual telecommunication user account information. Furthermore, Peters discloses a method for generating a variety of billing, maintenance, operation reports, and other output from such information (col 1, lines 10-15).

--The data in the database is of four general types: subscriber information, dwelling information, inventory system information, and miscellaneous information (col 6, lines 50-67; col 7, lines 1-27).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have combined Peters to Anand. As disclosed by Anand, the database that the user accesses to create a report can be any kind of database and the database disclosed in Peters comprises billing and inventory database.

Art Unit: 2776

Regarding claim 2, which is dependent on claim 1, the fact that the Smart Report Viewing subsystem allows the user to format text, tables, and graphs in the report as well as add the footer, annotations to the report implies that the view editor receives and implements user editing instructions (disclosed in claim 1).

Regarding claim 3, the system of Anand includes a graphical user interface for the user to interact with the system.

Regarding claim 4, Anand discloses the aggregating method such as add, average, min, max, count to disclose the change in the Smart Report (col 17, lines 65-67; col 18, lines 1-50). Anand also discloses the drill down command (col 9, lines 16-32, col 10, lines 50-67).

Regarding claim 6, the system of Anand and Peters comprises an Internet connection and web browser.

Regarding claim 7, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have known that the graphical user interface comprises Java applets and HTML page.

Art Unit: 2776

Claims 8-11 are the method for generating an on-line report performed on the system of claims 1-4, therefore rejected under the same rationale.

4. Claims 5, 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anand and Peters as applied to claims 1 and 8 above, and further in view of Melchione et al. (US Pat No. 5,930,764, 7/27/99).

Regarding claim 5, which is dependent on claim 1, Melchione discloses the three-tier-hierarchy provides the "key" at each of the household, customer, and customer levels that satisfy user criteria for queries, views, and reports (col 16, lines 45-64). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have employed Melchione because Melchione provides the criteria as a threshold to select which data from the database to be included in the report.

Claim 12 is the method to be performed on the system of claim 5, and therefore rejected under the same rationale.

Art Unit: 2776

### *Conclusion*

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kitain et al. (US Pat No. 5,864,871, 1/26/99) teaches an information delivery system and method including on-line entitlement.

Griffin (US Pat No. 5,893,077, 4/6/99) teaches a method and apparatus for generating and collecting a billing event object within an on-line network.

Robinson (US Pat No. 5,918,014, 6/29/99) teaches the automated collaborative filtering in world wide web advertising.

Haggerson et al. (US Pat No. 5,956,690, 9/21/99) teaches the bundled billing accounting computer systems.

Melchione et al. (US Pat No. 5,966,695, 10/12/99) teaches the sales and marketing support system using a graphical query prospect database.

Anand et al. (US Pat No. 5,721,903, 2/24/98) teaches a system and method for generating report from a computer database.

Strauss, Jr. et al. (US Pat No. 5,727,196, 3/10/98) teaches an optimized query interface for database management systems.

Walker et al. (US Pat No. 5,737,414, 4/7/98) teaches the 900 number billing and collection system and method for on-line computer services.



Art Unit: 2776

Munsil et al. (US Pat No. 5,761,650, 4/7/98) teaches a billing system and method.

Dan et al. (US Pat No. 5,867,651, 2/2/99) teaches a system for providing custom functionality to client systems by redirecting of messages through a user configurable filter network having a plurality of partially interconnected filter.

Chow et al. (US Pat No. 5,802,352, 9/1/98) teaches a method for separating data retrieval and presentation in an object-oriented reporting system.

Reeder (US Pat No. 5,852,812, 12/22/98) teaches a billing system for a network.

Shavit et al. (US Pat No. 4,799,156, 1/17/89) teaches an interactive market management system.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cong-Lac Huynh whose telephone number is (703) 305-0432. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Razavi, can be reached on (703) 305-4713. The fax number to this Art Unit is (703) 308-5403.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

7. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Application/Control Number: 09/001,643

Page 9

Art Unit: 2776

Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)


**Or:**

(703) 308-5403 (for informal or draft communications, please label  
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,  
Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

clh

11/22/99

  
**STEPHEN S. HONG**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**